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FRACTURE MECHANICS AND ITS
APPLICATION TO WOOD

MUSTAFA MOHAMAD

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MUSTAFA BIN MOHAMAD
Student

ABSTRACT

Using fracture mechanics one can predict the strength of wood that contains knots, notches, cracks and other discontinuities. The author undertakes to introduce the reader the fundamentals of fracture mechanics and its application to wood incorporating a small-scale experiment using the standard test procedures (BS 5447: 1977).

It is a commonly held belief that the isotropic solution can also give satisfactory results for most orthotropic materials. For isotropic materials there are three fracture values in respect to the three modes of crack propagation. But, for wood that is modelled as an orthotropic materials, six different fracture toughness values exist for every one of the three modes.


Two standard types of test piece that are currently recommended in the BS 5447: 1977 were used (i.e. SEN bend and CTS test piece). The species of wood used was Keruing. For the purpose of the study, specimen were cut so that it consists of crack parallel and perpendicular to grain. Test results show an agreeable K_{Ic} value for crack parallel to grain from the CTS test piece. The value obtained was $0.56 \text{ MN}^{-3/2}$ i.e. within the range of $0.5 - 1 \text{ MN m}^{-3/2}$

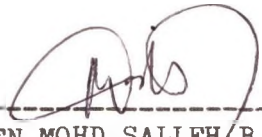
LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

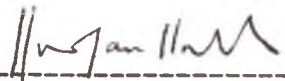
	PAGE
Fig. 1 : Crack growth and Residual strength curve	12
Fig. 2 : Infinite body with a through thickness crack of length $2a$	19
Fig. 3 : Tensile stress distribution ahead of crack	19
Fig. 4 : Relationship between fracture toughness of wood and density	27
Fig. 5 : The three modes of cracking	28
Fig. 6 : Orthotropic model of a clear wood	28
Fig. 7 : Orthotropic crack alignments in wood	28
Fig. 8 : Details of Standard bend test piece	32
Fig. 9 : Details of Standard Tension Test piece	33
Fig.10 : Displacement gauge output	34
Fig.11 : Load-COD curves obtained in experiment	45
Fig.12 : Load-COD curves obtained in experiment	46
Fig.13 : Load-COD curves obtained in experiment for SEN bend specimen	47
Fig.14 : Relevant picture of Instron machine	48
Fig.15 : Relevant picture on set-up of CTS test piece with extensometer and knife-edges	49

SUBMITTAL SHEET

A report is submitted herein to the School of Engineering, MARA Institute of Technology, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Advanced Diploma of Civil Engineering .

Date: 2nd / 05 / 18 . 1988 Signed: 
(MUSTAFA BIN MOHAMAD)
Student

Date: 2 / 8 1988 Approved: 
(EN. MOHD SALLEH / B. MOHD NOH)
Dip. Civil (ITK), B. Sc. (Hons)
(Glasgow), M. Sc. (Struct. Eng.)
Project Advisor

Date: 2 / 8 1988 Approved: 
(EN. RUSLAN BIN HASSAN)
Adv. Dip. Civil (I.T.M.),
M.Sc. (Sanitary Engg.)
Syracuse University.
Course Tutor,
Dept. of Civil Engg. (Adv.)